

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for privacy management, comprising:

providing a linked collection of Web pages, comprising at least first and second Web pages, on a Web site maintained by an enterprise, so as to enable a user to exchange information with the enterprise via the Web pages;

assigning, by the enterprise, respective, non-uniform privacy policies to at least some of the Web pages regarding use of the information that is exchanged through the Web pages, the privacy policies comprising at least a first privacy policy assigned to the first Web page and a second, different privacy policy assigned to the second Web page;

providing to the user accessing the first and second Web pages the respective privacy policies for the first and second Web page; and

exchanging the information with the user via the Web site subject to the non-uniform privacy policies, such that at least a first portion of the information is exchanged via the first Web page subject to the first privacy policy, and at least a second portion of the information is exchanged via the second Web page subject to the second privacy policy.

56. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 55, wherein exchanging the information with the user comprises receiving private information submitted to the enterprise by the user.

57. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 56, wherein receiving the private information comprises receiving the user's agreement to at least one of the privacy policies, and recording the private information together with an indication of the at least one of the privacy policies agreed upon.

58. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 57, and comprising:

intercepting a request from an application to use the private information received from the user;

querying the application to determine its compliance with the at least one of the privacy policies subject to which the requested information was received; and

providing the requested information subject to the compliance of the application with the at least one of the privacy policies.

59. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 55, wherein providing the linked collection of Web pages comprises arranging the Web pages in a hierarchy of nodes that comprises a root node, such that each of the nodes except for the root node has a parent node in the hierarchy, and

wherein assigning the privacy policies comprises assigning to each of at least some of the nodes, including the nodes associated with the first and second Web pages, one or more respective privacy rules regarding use of the information that is associated with the nodes, and setting for each of the nodes a node privacy policy that comprises the privacy rules assigned to the node combined, for each of the nodes except the root node, with the node privacy policy of its parent node.

60. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 55, wherein providing the respective privacy policies comprises informing the user who has exchanged the information associated with the first Web page subject to the first privacy policy of a difference in the second privacy policy relative to the first privacy policy before exchanging the information associated with the second Web page.

61. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 55, wherein assigning the non-uniform privacy policies comprises assigning an initial privacy policy to the first Web page, and subsequently making a change in the initial privacy policy so as to assign a modified privacy policy to the first Web page, and wherein providing the privacy policies to the user comprises informing the user who has exchanged information with the first Web page subject to the initial privacy policy of the change.

62. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 61, wherein informing the user comprises prompting the user to provide an input to indicate whether the user accepts or rejects the change.

63. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 55, wherein assigning the privacy policies comprises storing the privacy policies in a computer server belonging to the enterprise, and wherein providing the privacy policies to the user comprises intercepting a request by the user to access the first Web page and providing the first privacy policy to the user responsive to the request.

64. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 55, wherein providing the privacy policies comprises conveying the policies in a standard form for presentation by a Web browser.

65. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the standard form comprises a form specified by the Platform for Privacy Preferences Project (P3P).

66. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 55, wherein assigning the non-uniform privacy policies comprises determining a rating for each of the policies based on a predetermined rating scale.

67. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 55, wherein assigning the non-uniform privacy policies comprises defining first and second user classes and defining, for a given one of the Web pages, different first and second class privacy policies, respectively, for the first and second user classes, and wherein providing the privacy policies to the user comprises determining whether the user belongs to the first or second class, and providing the first or the second class privacy policy accordingly.

68. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method for privacy management, comprising:

arranging a body of information in a hierarchy of nodes that comprises a root node, such that each of the nodes except for the root node has one or more ancestor nodes in the hierarchy;

assigning to each of at least some of the nodes one or more respective privacy rules regarding use of the information that is associated with the node;

receiving a request from a user to access a given node;

computing a node privacy policy for the given node by combining the privacy rules assigned to the given node with node privacy policies of the ancestor nodes of the given node in the hierarchy;

providing the computed node privacy policy to the user; and

exchanging with the user at least a portion of the information that is associated with the given node subject to the provided privacy policy.

69. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 68, wherein exchanging the information with the user comprises receiving private information submitted by the user.

70. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 68, wherein arranging the body of information comprises associating the nodes with respective Web pages accessible through a Web site.

71. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 68, wherein assigning the respective privacy rules comprises representing the privacy rules assigned to each of the at least some of the nodes as respective policy sections, which are written in an extended extensible markup language (XML) and comprise an attribute identifying a parent node in the hierarchy.

72. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method for privacy management, comprising:

providing a linked collection of interactive resources through which a user is able to exchange information with an enterprise that provides the resources, at least some of the resources having privacy policies associated therewith regarding use of the information that is exchanged through the resources;

receiving information from users who access the resources subject to the privacy policies;

intercepting a request from an application to use the information received from the users;

upon receiving the request from the application, querying the application to determine compliance of the application with the privacy policies subject to which the requested information was received; and

providing the requested information to the application subject to the compliance of the application with the privacy policies.

73. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 72, wherein the collection of interactive resources comprises a collection of Web pages accessible through a Web site of the enterprise.

74. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 72, wherein providing the linked collection of resources comprises associating non-uniform privacy policies with the resources, and wherein receiving the information comprises receiving and storing different items of the information subject to different privacy rules from among the non-uniform privacy policies.

75. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 74, wherein providing the requested information comprises checking the compliance of the application with the privacy rules respectively applicable to each of the items of the information requested by the application.

76. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 74, wherein providing the requested information comprises determining that the application does not comply with the rules respectively applicable to a given item of the information, and refusing to provide the requested information with respect to the given item, while providing other information with respect to which the application does comply with the respectively applicable rules.

77. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 72, wherein receiving the information comprises receiving the information from first and second users subject to respective first and second privacy policies, and wherein providing the requested information comprises checking the compliance of the application with both the first and the second privacy policies.

78. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 72, and comprising making a record of the request and of the information provided responsive thereto in a log for review in a subsequent privacy audit.

79. (Currently amended) Apparatus for privacy management, comprising a computer enterprise server arranged to provide a linked collection of Web pages, comprising at least first and second Web pages, on a Web site maintained by an enterprise, so as to enable a user to exchange information with the enterprise via the Web pages, and to permit the enterprise to assign respective, non-uniform privacy policies to at least some of the Web pages regarding use of the information that is exchanged through the Web pages, the privacy policies comprising at least a first privacy policy assigned to the first Web page and a second, different privacy policy assigned to the second Web page, and further arranged to provide to the user accessing the first and second Web pages the respective privacy policies for the first and second Web page, and to exchange the information with the user via the Web site subject to the non-uniform privacy policies, such that at least a first portion of the information is exchanged via the first Web page subject to the first privacy policy, and at least a second portion of the information is exchanged via the second Web page subject to the second privacy policy.

80. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 79, wherein the information exchanged with the user comprises private information submitted to the enterprise by the user.

81. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 80, wherein the server is arranged to receive the user's agreement to at least one of the privacy policies, and to record the private information together with an indication of the at least one of the privacy policies agreed upon.

82. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 81, wherein the server is further arranged to intercept a request from an application to use the private information received from the user, to query the application to determine its compliance with the at least one of the privacy policies subject to which the requested information was received, and to provide the requested information subject to the compliance of the application with the at least one of the privacy policies.

83. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 79, wherein the Web pages are arranged in a hierarchy of nodes that comprises a root node, such that each of the nodes except for the root node has a parent node in the hierarchy, and wherein the server is arranged to associate with each of at least some of the nodes, including the nodes associated with the first and second Web pages, one or more respective privacy rules regarding use of the information that is associated with the nodes, and to set for each of the nodes a node privacy policy that comprises the privacy rules assigned to the node combined, for each of the nodes except the root node, with the node privacy policy of its parent node.

84. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 79, wherein the server is arranged to inform the user who has exchanged the information associated with the first Web page to the first privacy policy of a difference in the second privacy policy relative to the first privacy policy before exchanging the information associated with the second Web page.

85. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 79, wherein the server is arranged to assign an initial privacy policy to the first Web page, and subsequently to receive an indication of a change in the initial privacy policy so as to assign a modified privacy policy to the first Web page, and to inform a user who has exchanged information with the first Web page subject to the initial privacy policy of the change.

86. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 85, wherein the server is arranged to generate a prompt to the user to provide an input to indicate whether the user accepts or rejects the change.

87. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 79, wherein the server is adapted to convey the policy to a client computer in a standard form for presentation by a Web browser.

88. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 87, wherein the standard form comprises a form specified by the Platform for Privacy Preferences Project (P3P).

89. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 79, wherein the server is arranged to determine a rating for each of the policies based on a predetermined rating scale.

90. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 79, wherein the server is arranged to receive a definition of first and second user classes and, for a given one of the resources, different first and second class privacy policies, respectively, for the first and second user classes, and to determine whether the user belongs to the first or second class and to provide the first or the second class privacy policy to the user accordingly.

91. (Previously presented) Apparatus for privacy management, comprising a computer server arranged to receive and store a body of information in a hierarchy of nodes that comprises a root node, such that each of the nodes except for the root node has one or more ancestor nodes in the hierarchy, together with an assignment to each of at least some of the nodes of one or more respective privacy rules regarding use of the information that is associated with the node,

wherein the server is arranged, in response a request from a user to access a given node, to compute a node privacy policy for the given node by combining the privacy rules assigned to the given node with node privacy policies of the ancestor nodes of the given node in the hierarchy, to provide the computed node privacy policy to the user, and to exchange with the user at least a portion of the information that is associated with the given node subject to the provided privacy policy.

92. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 91, wherein the information exchanged with the user comprises private information submitted to the server by the user.

93. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 91, wherein the body of information comprises a collection of Web pages accessible through a Web site, and

wherein the server is arranged to associate the nodes with respective ones of the Web pages.

94. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ Apparatus according to claim 91, wherein the server is arranged to represent the privacy rules assigned to each of the at least some of the nodes as respective policy sections, which are written in an ~~extended~~ extensible markup language (XML) and comprise an attribute identifying a parent node in the hierarchy.

95. (Previously presented) Apparatus for privacy management, comprising a computer enterprise server arranged to provide a linked collection of interactive resources through which a user is able to exchange information with an enterprise that provides the resources, at least some of the resources having privacy policies associated therewith regarding use of the information that is exchanged through the resources, and to receive information from users who access the resources subject to the privacy policies,

wherein the server is arranged to intercept a request from an application to use the information received from the users, and upon receiving the request, to query the application to determine compliance of the application with the privacy policies subject to which the requested information was received, and to provide the requested information to the application subject to the compliance of the application with the privacy policies.

96. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 95, wherein the collection of interactive resources comprises a collection of Web pages accessible through a Web site of the enterprise.

97. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 95, wherein the server is arranged to associate non-uniform privacy policies with the resources, and to receive and store different items of the information subject to different privacy rules from among the non-uniform privacy policies.

98. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 97, wherein the server is arranged to check the compliance of the application with the privacy rules respectively applicable to each of the items of the information requested by the application.

99. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 97, wherein when the server is arranged, upon determining that the application does not comply with the rules

respectively applicable to a given item, to refuse to provide the requested information with respect to the given item, while providing other information with respect to which the application does comply with the respectively applicable rules.

100. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 95, wherein the server is arranged to receive the information from first and second ones of the users subject to respective first and second privacy policies, and to check the compliance of the application with both the first and the second privacy policies.

101. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 95, wherein the server is adapted to make a record of the request and of the information provided responsive thereto in a log for review in a subsequent privacy audit.

102. (Currently amended) A computer software product for privacy management, comprising a computer-readable medium in which program instructions are stored, which instructions, when read by a computer, cause the computer to provide a linked collection of Web pages, comprising at least first and second Web pages, on a Web site maintained by an enterprise, so as to enable a user to exchange information with the enterprise via the Web pages, and to permit the enterprise to assign respective, non-uniform privacy policies to at least some of the Web pages regarding use of the information that is exchanged through the Web pages, the privacy policies comprising at least a first privacy policy assigned to the first Web page and a second, different privacy policy assigned to the second Web page,

wherein the instructions further cause the computer to provide to the user accessing the first and second Web pages the respective privacy policies for the first and second Web page, and to exchange the information with the user via the Web site subject to the non-uniform privacy policies, such that at least a first portion of the information is exchanged via the first Web page subject to the first privacy policy, and at least a second portion of the information is exchanged via the second Web page subject to the second privacy policy.

103. (Previously presented) A product according to claim 102, wherein the information exchanged with the user comprises private information submitted to the enterprise by the user, and wherein the instructions cause the computer to receive and store the private information together with an indication of the privacy policy agreed upon.

104. (Previously presented) A computer software product for privacy management, comprising a computer-readable medium in which program instructions are stored, which instructions, when read by a computer, cause the computer to arrange a body of information in a hierarchy of nodes that comprises a root node, such that each of the nodes except for the root node has one or more ancestor nodes in the hierarchy, to assign to each of at least some of the nodes one or more respective privacy rules regarding use of the information that is associated with the node,

wherein the instructions cause the computer, in response a request from a user to access a given node, to compute a node privacy policy for the given node by combining the privacy rules assigned to the given node with node privacy policies of the ancestor nodes of the given node in the hierarchy, to provide the computed node privacy policy to the user, and to exchange with the user at least a portion of the information that is associated with the given node subject to the provided privacy policy.

105. (Previously presented) A computer software product for privacy management, comprising a computer-readable medium in which program instructions are stored, which instructions, when read by a computer, cause the computer to provide a linked collection of interactive resources through which a user is able to exchange information with an enterprise that provides the resources, at least some of the resources having privacy policies associated therewith regarding use of the information that is exchanged through the resources, and to receive information from users who access the resources subject to the privacy policies,

wherein the instructions cause the computer to intercept a request from an application to use the information received from the users, to query the application to determine its compliance with the privacy policies subject to which the requested information was received, and to provide the requested information subject to the compliance of the application with the privacy policies.